

A¹ with which client 15 is currently configured to communicate (annotation server 10 of Fig. 1 in the illustrated embodiment).

In the Drawing:

New formal drawings are enclosed herewith. The Examiner's approval of the new formal drawings is respectfully requested.

In the Claims:

Claims 1-23 were previously pending.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claims 24-27 are added.

Claims 1-27 are pending.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(c)(1), please replace the current versions of claims 1-23 with the following clean copies of claims 1-27:

A 2 sub B } 1. (Amended) A system comprising:
a multimedia server having access to a plurality of media streams that represent different versions of multimedia content;
an annotation database, coupled to the multimedia server, that stores a plurality of annotations, wherein each of the plurality of annotations is correlated with different versions of multimedia content contained in the plurality of media streams; and

an annotation server, coupled to the annotation database, to manage storage and retrieval of the plurality of annotations.

2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of media streams includes a plurality of audio media streams and a plurality of video media streams.

3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each media stream of a set of the plurality of media streams is a different time-compressed version of the multimedia content.

4. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of media streams is a version of the multimedia content having a different resolution.

5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the annotation database maintains an identifier of each of the plurality of media streams.

6. A system as recited in claim 5, wherein each identifier is a uniform resource locator (URL).

7. An apparatus comprising:
a storage device to store a data structure; and

an annotation module to store an annotation in the storage device so that the annotation is correlated with different versions of the same multimedia content via the data structure.

8. An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the annotation is associated with a version list identifying each of the multiple different versions.

9. An apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein the version list comprises a list of uniform resource locators (URLs).

10. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a data structure, comprising:

a first data field containing data representing an annotation corresponding to multimedia content; and

a second data field, correlated through the data structure to the first data field, so that the second data field identifies a plurality of different versions of the multimedia content to which the annotation corresponds.

11. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 10, wherein the second data field contains a plurality of identifiers, each corresponding to one of the different versions of the multimedia content.

12. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 11, each of the plurality of identifiers comprises an URL.

13. A method comprising:
receiving a user request to create a new annotation; and
associating the new annotation with a set of media streams, wherein the set of media streams is part of a plurality of media streams, and wherein each of the plurality of media streams is a different version of multimedia content.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising associating the new annotation with a previously generated record of the set of media streams that is shared by a plurality of annotations.

15. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising, prior to the associating, identifying the set of media streams.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the identifying comprises communicating with a streaming media server to receive an indication of the set.

17. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the indication comprises a set of identifiers, each identifier uniquely identifying one of the set of streams.

18. A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising:
generating a record of the set of media streams; and
storing the record with the new annotation.

19. A computer-readable memory containing a computer program that is
executable by a computer to perform the method recited in claim 13.

20. A method comprising:
receiving an indication of a version of media content being presented to a
user;
identifying a collection of annotations corresponding to the media content,
each annotation corresponding to a plurality of different versions of the media
content; and
providing selected annotations from the collection of annotations to the
client computer for presentation to the user.

21. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the providing comprises:
converting a current presentation time of the version of the media content
being provided to the user to a time in a base version of the media content;
selecting annotations from the collection of annotations having a
corresponding time range that encompasses the time in the base version.

22. A method as recited in claim 20, wherein the identifying comprises:
comparing an identifier of the version of media content to a plurality of
identifiers corresponding to the collection of annotations.

23. A computer-readable memory containing a computer program that is
executable by a computer to perform the method recited in claim 20.

New Claims:

24. (New) A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising rendering
the annotation to a user together with the associated set of media streams.

25. (New) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
data structure, comprising:

a first data field containing data representing an annotation corresponding
to multimedia content; and

a second data field, correlated through the data structure to the first data field, configured to cause a processor to correlate the second data field with a plurality of different versions of the multimedia content to which the annotation corresponds.

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26. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25, wherein the second data field contains a plurality of identifiers, each corresponding to one of the different versions of the multimedia content.

27. (New) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 26, each of the plurality of identifiers comprises an URL.